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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/728,672	12/01/2000	Mai-lan Tomsen	005217.P008	5562
33318 7590 01/12/2007 DIGEO, INC. 8815 122ND.NE KIRKLAND, WA 98033			EXAMINER BELIVEAU, SCOTT E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2623	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/728,672	Applicant(s) TOMSEN, MAI-LAN	
	Examiner Scott Beliveau	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7-9 and 23-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7-9 and 23-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Miscellaneous

1. Please note that the examiner of record for this application has changed.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged. Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. The later-filed application must be an application for a patent for an invention which is also disclosed in the prior application (the parent or original nonprovisional application or provisional application). The disclosure of the invention in the parent application and in the later-filed application must be sufficient to comply with the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. See *Transco Products, Inc. v. Performance Contracting, Inc.*, 38 F.3d 551, 32 USPQ2d 1077 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

The disclosure of the prior-filed applications, Application No.s 60/220,798 and 60/236,422, fail to provide adequate support or enablement in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 for one or more claims of this application. In particular, the claimed subject matter of claims 24-29, 32, 34-38, and 40-43 do not appear to be supported and are consequently being examined based upon the application filing date of 01 December 2000.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Pre-Brief Conference request, filed 25 July 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 3, 5, 7-9, and 23-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn as indicated in the Pre-Brief Appeal Conference decision, mailed 18 September 2006. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made as follows.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 9 is objected to because the recitation of 'the second command' lacks antecedence. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mankovitz (WO 98/48566).

In consideration of claim 40, Mankovitz discloses a "method" for interacting with supplemental content. The method involves "receiving a broadcast segment including supplemental content for conducting a transaction" (Page 5, Lines 15-21). In association with allowing the subscriber to interact with the supplemental content, the system may "receive a command to defer the transaction" and "defer the transaction" associated with

shopping by selecting to view another supplemental feature (ex. Trivia) (Page 6, Lines 10-24). “In response to the command to defer the transaction” or to interact with a different functionality, the system continues to “capture a snapshot of at least a portion of the broadcast segment related to a [shopping] transaction” and “locally stor[es] the snapshot within a set top box” (Page 7, Lines 12-26). The user may later decide to return to the ‘shopping’ functionality at a later point in time rewinding the presentation (Page 10, Lines 3-10) thereby “retrieving the locally-stored snapshot; and presenting the retrieved snapshot to restore a user’s context in the [shopping] transaction” in connection “receives a command to resume the deferred transaction” or returning to implement the shopping functionality (Page 7, Line 27 – Page 8, Line 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 23, 24, 26-34, 36-39, and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macrae et al. (US Pub No. 2003/0005463 A1), in view of Mankovitz (WO 98/48566), and in further view of Garrett (US Pat No. 6,473,738).

In consideration of claim 1, the Macrae et al. reference discloses a “method” as illustrated in Figures 2-3 and 8 comprising “presenting a broadcast segment as part of an interactive television transmission” such as a commercial and “receiving with the broadcast segment

supplemental information related to a transaction involving an item shown in the broadcast segment” (Para. [0043] – [0048] and [0060]). While the reference discloses the particular ability to support electronic shopping, it is silent with respect to the process involving the particular storage of ‘context information’ as well as the particular usage of a ‘shopping cart’ as claimed.

In an analogous art related to the field of interactive television, the Mankovitz reference discloses a “method” similar to Macrae et al. for “presenting a broadcast segment as part of an interactive television transmission” and “receiving with the broadcast segment supplemental information” (Page 5, Line 15 – Page 6, Line 9) which could also include shopping (Figure 2). Mankovitz further teaches that “responsive to a first command received from a user input device” [28] choosing to interact with the supplemental content the system “locally stores context information related to the transaction, the context information being separate from the supplemental information and indicating a context of the user within the transaction” by virtue of continuously presenting the particular portion of the video at the point in which the user decided to interact with the supplemental content in a manner that continually “restores the user’s context within the transaction” (Page 7, Line 27 – Line 4). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Macrae et al. using the teachings of Mankovitz for the purpose of advantageously allowing the viewer to interact with supplemental content at their leisure without losing the continuity of the video programming (Mankovitz: Page 2, Lines 5-15).

Taken in combination, the references “present a broadcast segment as part of an interactive television transmission [and] receive with the broadcast segment supplemental information related to a transaction involving an item shown in the broadcast segment. Subsequently, “responsive to a first command received from a user input device” associated with the decision to interact with the enhanced content, the system provides for the user to shop for goods or services related to the broadcast, “defer the transaction” in association with the subscriber continuing to interact with other web pages / PRI (ex. Trivia), “locally store the supplemental information received prior to the first command” so that the user can return to the shopping site (Macrae et al.: Para. [0050]), and “locally storing context information relating to the transaction, the context information being separate from the supplemental information and indicating a context of the user within the transaction” or the particular portion of the video programming that the user choose to interact with for the transaction. The combined references, however, are silent with respect to the particular usage of a ‘shopping cart’ in association with shopping.

In an analogous art pertaining to commerce over a data network, the Garrett reference discloses a method for conducting transactions using a ‘shopping cart’ wherein the consumer accesses the merchandiser via a web site address (Col 1, Lines 29-30). As illustrated in Figure 5, the method comprises “placing an indication of [an] item in a shopping cart” [537]. Figure 10 illustrates “subsequently displaying the shopping cart including the indication of the item” and further allowing the viewer to defer the transaction to purchase the items (ex. continuing to shop [1030], logging out [107] to return at a later time, etc.)(Col 7, Lines 1-27). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention to utilize the 'shopping cart' teachings of Garrett for the purpose of providing a shopping experience that mirrors the best aspects of 'in-store' shopping (Garrett: Col 1, Lines 16-25; Col 2, Lines 51-59).

Taken in combination, the references "present a broadcast segment as part of an interactive television transmission [and] receive with the broadcast segment supplemental information related to a transaction involving an item shown in the broadcast segment (Macrae et al. and Mankovitz). Subsequently, "responsive to a first command received from a user input device" associated with the decision to interact with the enhanced content (Macrae et al. and Mankovitz), the system provides for the user to shop for goods or services related to the broadcast and "place an indication of the item in a shopping cart" (Garrett), "defer the transaction" in association with the subscriber deciding to interact with other web pages / PRI (ex. Trivia) as opposed to purchasing the item immediately, "locally store the supplemental information received prior to the first command" so that the user can return to the shopping site (Macrae et al.: Para. [0050]), and "locally storing context information relating to the transaction, the context information being separate from the supplemental information and indicating a context of the user within the transaction" or the particular portion of the video programming that the user choose to interact with for the transaction. As illustrated in Garrett, the system subsequently "displays the shopping cart including the indication of the item" and "in response to a user selection of the item in the shopping cart" such as a selection to add the item to other parties list, the user may choose to log-out (Col 7, Lines 43-57) to further explore other related content prior to making an actual purchase. Subsequently, upon returning to 'shopping', the system "retrieves the locally-stored

supplemental information” in order to access the shopping web-site, and the “context information” associated with the commercial message, and “uses the supplemental information and context information to respectively resume the transaction pertaining to the item and restore the user’s context within the transaction” in association with the restoration of the user’s shopping experience while viewing the previously displayed video segment.

Claim 3 is rejected wherein the “broadcast segment comprises a commercial” (Macrae et al.: Para. [0048]; Mankovitz: Page 5, Lines 15-22).

Claim 5 is rejected wherein “the context information comprises at least a portion of a broadcast segment, and wherein using the context information includes streaming the at least a portion of the broadcast segment” for display (Mankovitz: Page 7, Line 27 – Page 8, Line 4).

Claim 7 is rejected wherein Garrett illustrates that method further comprises “prompting for a selection to complete the transaction” [106] and “in response to the selection, completing the transaction” [1735] (Figure 17).

Claim 8 is rejected wherein the Garrett illustrates that “responsive to user selection to conduct the transaction,” [106] the system “processes user input information related to conducting the transaction” (Garrett: Figure 17; Col 13, Lines 9-30).

Claim 9 is rejected wherein “subsequent to receiving [a] second command” the system “connects to a communication network to obtain at least some additional information usable for the transaction” (ex. gift wrapping, shipping information, etc.) (Garrett: Col 13, Lines 9-23).

Claim 23 is rejected in light of the previously set forth combination of Macrae et al., Mankovitz, and Garrett (US Pat No. 6,473,738). In particular, Macrae et al. discloses a “method” as illustrated in Figures 2-3 and 8 comprising “receiving a broadcast segment including supplemental information sufficient for conducting at least a portion of a transaction” involving an item shown in the broadcast segment” and “notifying a user that the transaction is available” (Para. [0043] – [0048], [0058], and [0060]). The user can subsequently “partially conduct the transaction” in association with interacting with the icon of Figure 2 in order to generate what is illustrated as Figure 3 (Para. [0025] – [0026]). “In response to receiving a user command to defer the transaction”, associated with choosing to view/perform other activities, the system “stores the supplemental information” (Para. [0024]) whereupon the user can subsequently “use the supplemental information . . . to resume the deferred transaction from the point at which it was deferred” in connection with returning to any of the previously displayed options of Figure 3. While the reference discloses the particular ability to support electronic shopping, it is silent with respect to the process involving the particular storage of ‘context information’ such as that associated with electronic shopping or other supplemental content.

In an analogous art related to the field of interactive television, as previously noted, the Mankovitz reference discloses a “method” similar to Macrae et al. for “receiving a broadcast segment including supplemental information sufficient for conducting at least a portion of a transaction” (Page 5, Line 15 – Page 6, Line 9) which could also include shopping (Figure 2). Mankovitz further teaches “storing context information relating to the transaction, the context information being separate from the supplemental information and indicating a context of the

user within the transaction” by virtue of continuously presenting the particular portion of the video at the point in which the user decided to interact with the supplemental content in a manner that continually “restores the user’s context within the transaction” (Page 7, Line 27 – Line 4). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Macrae et al. using the teachings of Mankovitz for the purpose of advantageously allowing the viewer to interact with supplemental content at their leisure without losing the continuity of the video programming (Mankovitz: Page 2, Lines 5-15).

In an analogous art pertaining to commerce over a data network, the Garrett reference discloses a method for conducting transactions using a ‘shopping cart’ wherein the consumer accesses the merchandiser via a web site address (Col 1, Lines 29-30). As illustrated in Figure 5, the method comprises “partially conducting [a] transaction” [537] in association with the placing of an item in a shopping cart [537] and “in response to receiving a user command to defer the transaction” (ex. continuing to shop [1030], logging out [107] to return at a later time, etc.), “storing context information relating to the transaction” (ex. shipping information, what items are scheduled for purchase, who the items are for, etc.) and “deferring the partially-conducted transactions” (Col 7, Lines 1-27). Subsequently, the system can “receive a user command to resume the deferred transaction” associated with the desire to complete the purchase from the “point at which it was deferred” (ex. already added shipping information, particular products, etc.). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to utilize the ‘shopping cart’

teachings of Garrett for the purpose of providing a shopping experience that mirrors the best aspects of 'in-store' shopping (Garrett: Col 1, Lines 16-25; Col 2, Lines 51-59).

Taken in combination, the references "receive a broadcast segment including supplemental information sufficient for conducting at least a portion of a transmission" and "notify a user that the transaction is available" in connection with the particular presentation of an icon as illustrated in Figure 2 of Macrae et al. or the list of options as illustrated in Figure 3. The user can subsequently "partially conduct the transaction" in conjunction with any number of steps necessary to actually complete the transaction (ex. purchase the item). For example, 'partially conducting the transaction' may merely involve the selection of the icon (Figure 2) or the selection of the 'Shopping feature' (Figure 3) as shown in Macrae et al. or 'partially conducting the transaction' may refer to the placing of an item in a shopping cart as shown in Garrett. Subsequently, "in response to receiving a user command to defer the transaction", the combination continues to "store the supplemental information" necessary to access the shopping site as well as 'context information relating to the transaction' associated with either the broadcast segment itself (Mankovitz) or other information associated with the 'context of the user' (ex. shipping information, who the item is for, etc.) related to the purchase (Garrett). Upon determining to resume the transaction the system "retrieves the locally-stored supplemental information" in order to access the shopping web-site, and the "context information" associated with the commercial message or other ordering information, and "uses the supplemental information and context information to respectively resume the transaction pertaining to the item and restore the user's context within the

transaction” in association with the restoration of the user’s shopping experience while viewing the previously displayed video segment.

Claim 24 is rejected wherein “storing the supplemental information comprises storing a URL of a website” (Macrae et al.: Para. [0024]).

Claim 26 is rejected wherein “storing the supplemental information comprises locally storing the supplemental information within a set top box” (Macrae et al.: Para. [0022] and [0024]).

Claim 27 is rejected wherein “storing context information comprises storing information previously entered by a user in connection with the transaction” such as the particular party that the item is being purchased for as well as the shipping information (Garrett: Figures 4-5).

Claim 28 is rejected wherein “storing context information comprises storing one or more URLs of websites accessed in connection with the transaction” such those corresponding to other websites associated with the video segment (ex. Trivia)(Macrae et al.: Figures 3-4; Para. [0022] and [0033]).

Claim 29 is rejected wherein “storing context information comprises storing content retrieved from websites accessed in connection with the transaction” such those corresponding to other websites associated with the video segment (ex. Trivia)(Macrae et al.: Figures 3-4; Para. [0022] and [0033]).

Claim 30 is rejected wherein “storing context information comprises storing at least one snapshot of the broadcast segment relating to the transaction” (Mankovitz: Page 7, Line 12 – Page 8, Line 4).

Claim 31 is rejected wherein “storing at least one snapshot of a television commercial comprises storing the at least one snapshot locally within a set top box” (Mankovitz: Page 4, Lines 26-37; Page 8, Lines 27-35).

Claim 32 is rejected wherein “storing at least one snapshot of a television commercial comprises locally capturing the at least one snapshot from the broadcast segment” (Mankovitz: Page 7, Line 26 – Page 8, Line 4).

Claim 33 is rejected in light of the combined teachings wherein “storing context information comprises storing an indication of a current action” (ex. added item X to shopping cart) “within a set of actions of the transaction” (ex. adding shipping information, adding additional parties, etc.) “at which point the transaction is to be deferred”.

Claim 34 is rejected wherein “storing context information comprises storing the context information locally within a set top box” (Macrae et al.: Figures 3-4; Para. [0022] and [0033]) (Mankovitz: Page 7, Line 26 – Page 8, Line 4).

Claim 36 is rejected wherein “receiving a user command to resume the deferred transaction comprises: display a list of deferred transactions; and receiving a user selection of a deferred transaction to resume” (Garrett: Figure 5).

Claim 37 is rejected wherein “receiving a user command to resume the deferred transaction comprises display with the list of deferred transactions a list of previously completed transactions” [511] and a “list of cancelled transactions” [512] associated with the removal of an item for purchase (Garrett: Figure 5; Col 7, Line 59 – Col 8, Line 36).

Claim 38 is rejected in light of the combined teachings wherein “displaying a list of deferred transactions comprises automatically displaying a list of deferred transactions during

a commercial break” in so far as the particularly displayed or ‘frozen’ video segment is a portion of the ‘commercial break’. The particularly displayed ‘list of deferred transactions’ illustrated in Figure 5 of Garrett therefor is displayed during a time-shifted ‘commercial break’.

Claim 39 is similarly rejected in light of the combined teachings wherein “displaying a list of deferred transactions comprises automatically displaying a list of deferred transactions after the broadcast segment program being currently viewed has ended” given that the particular transaction list may be compiled over a long period of time (Garrett: Col 14, Lines 23-27) and the system provides the ability to time-shift viewing.

Claim 41 is rejected wherein “partially conducting the transaction comprising storing an indication of an item related to the transaction in a shopping cart” [537] (Garrett: Figure 5).

Claim 42 is rejected wherein “partially conducting the transaction comprises receiving user input related to the transaction” such as the particular selection by the user to access the shopping feature from the list of available features, adding information related to shipping addresses, etc.

Claim 43 is rejected wherein “storing context information comprises storing transaction status information” wherein transaction status information may be construed as information related to the particular state of the transaction such as whether or not an item has been added to the shopping cart and purchased as illustrated in Figure 5 of Garrett.

9. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macrae et al. (US Pub No. 2003/0005463 A1), in view of Mankovitz (WO 98/48566), in view of Garrett (US Pat No. 6,473,738), and in further view of Blackketter et al. (US Pat No. 6,415,438).

Regarding claim 25, the combined references are silent with respect to the particular usage of 'ATVEF triggers'. In an analogous art pertaining to interactive television, the Blackketter et al. reference discloses the distribution of program related information using "ATVEF triggers" (Col 4, Line 31 – Col 5, Line 40). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined references such that "storing the supplemental information comprises storing an ATVEF trigger" for the purpose of providing an improved means for the particular triggering/presentation of supplemental content so as to enable the trigger to be sent in advance when there is adequate transport bandwidth to transport the trigger (Blackketter et al.: Col 1, Line 62 – Col 2, Line 13).

10. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macrae et al. (US Pub No. 2003/0005463 A1), in view of Mankovitz (WO 98/48566), in view of Garrett (US Pat No. 6,473,738), and in further view of Zigmond et al. (US Pat No. 6,400,407).

Regarding claim 35, the combined references are silent with respect to "notifying comprises presenting an audio indicator of the availability of the transaction". In an analogous art pertaining to interactive television, the Zigmond et al. reference provides evidence as to "notifying comprising presenting an audio indicator of the availability of [a] transaction" with supplemental content (Col 3, Lines 27-65; Col 5, Lines 14-28). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to modify the combined references such that the "notifying comprises presenting an audio indicator of the availability of the transaction" for the purpose of providing a means to alert individuals to availability supplemental content that may have difficulty in seeing the screen and/or so as to provide a more intelligent mechanism

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for communicating logical addresses associated with a video signal (Zigmond et al.: Col 2, Lines 28-39).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure as follows. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims, the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and the objections made.

- The Weber et al. (US Pat No. 6,971,105) reference discloses a system and method for allowing subscribers to defer transactions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Beliveau whose telephone number is 571-272-7343. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197

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(toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



SEB

January 9, 2007

Scott Beliveau
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623